



American Water Works Association
Pacific Northwest Section

2019 PNWS-AWWA Conference Vancouver Local Arrangement Committee Report

The Local Arrangement Committee (LAC) has been actively planning details for the conference over the past several months.

Opening Ceremony/Keynote Speaker:

Planning for the opening ceremony is progressing and discussions are taking place with the color guard. The local act for the opening ceremony will be the Battle Ground High School Jazz band.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Steve Eberlein Co-Founder of Tipping Point Resilience, a communication consultancy that specializes in earthquake preparedness. Steve authored "Prepare Out Loud," a community preparedness program focused on building the Pacific Northwest's resilience for a 9.0M Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake. Steve has presented over 120 times to more than 17,000 audience members.

Competition Night:

Competition night planning is progressing. Competition night will be located across the street from the convention center in Esther Short Park. Due to potential weather conditions in western Washington in early May, large tents will be rented to provide cover for competitors and attendees. The entire area will be fenced off and entry will only be allowed to conference attendees.

An outdoor, open air market theme is planned with four different food carts brought in to provide a variety of different foods. There will also be three breweries and a winery that will provide drinks. Each attendee will receive vouchers good for a small plate of food from each of the food carts and drinks from the breweries/winery. Non-alcoholic beverages will be available and provided by the Hilton. Additional beer and wine will be available for purchase from the breweries and winery.

New this year is the opportunity for sponsorship of the food and beverage vendors with tent space provided next to the sponsored vendor. This will help offset the cost of the food and drinks.

Golf:

The golf tournament will take place at Camas Meadows, which is approximately 14 miles east of the convention center. Planning is progressing for the golf tournament.

Gifts:

The conference gift will be a vacuum insulated stainless steel tumbler.

The banquet gift will be a sampler of Jacobsen Salts. The box will include six different types of salt made by the local Jacobsen Salt Company.



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Miscellaneous:

Registration is currently open.

A new App will be used this year in an effort to have a more user friendly App. The App is still in development.

Due to the limited number of hotel rooms in the immediate vicinity of the convention center, the LAC will be working with a transportation company to provide shuttles between the Hilton Vancouver and the Red Lion on the River.

Volunteer coordination is currently taking place as well.

The LAC has found an entertaining band named the Ukeladies for the Water for People auction and is working on a contract with them for the conference.

A walk-through of the Hilton Hotel and Convention Center as well as Esther Short Park will take place during the 2019 Winter Trustees Meeting to ensure we are ready to go for the conference.

The LAC is excited for the conference in May. We will continue to finalize plans and look forward to continuing the conference planning to make the 2019 Vancouver conference great.